

Application Serial No.: 10/008,388
Amendment and Response to June 29, 2006 Non-Final Office Action

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 23 are in the application. Claims 1, 3 - 6, 9, 20, 21, 22, and 23 were previously presented; claims 24 and 25 are canceled; claim 19 is withdrawn; and claims 2, 7, 8, and 10 – 18 remain unchanged from the original versions thereof. Claims 1, 19, 20, and 23 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of the election.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In response to the Restriction Requirement imposed by the Office Action mailed June 29, 2006, Applicant elects **Group I, Claims 1 - 18 and 20 – 23** for prosecution.

Applicant notes that the Office Action correctly identified the pending claims as 1 – 23. However, the Office Action further indicated claims 1 - 8 and 20 – 25 is in Group I and claim 19 is in Group II.

Based on the pending claims and the indication of two groups, Applicant responds to the Restriction Requirement on the basis of claims 1 – 18 and 20 -23 belonging to Group I. If Applicant's interpretation of the Restriction Requirement is erroneous, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to inform Applicant in a timely manner at the telephone number provided below and an opportunity to respond without prejudice or penalty.


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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-5985.

Respectfully submitted,

July 31, 2006
Date


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